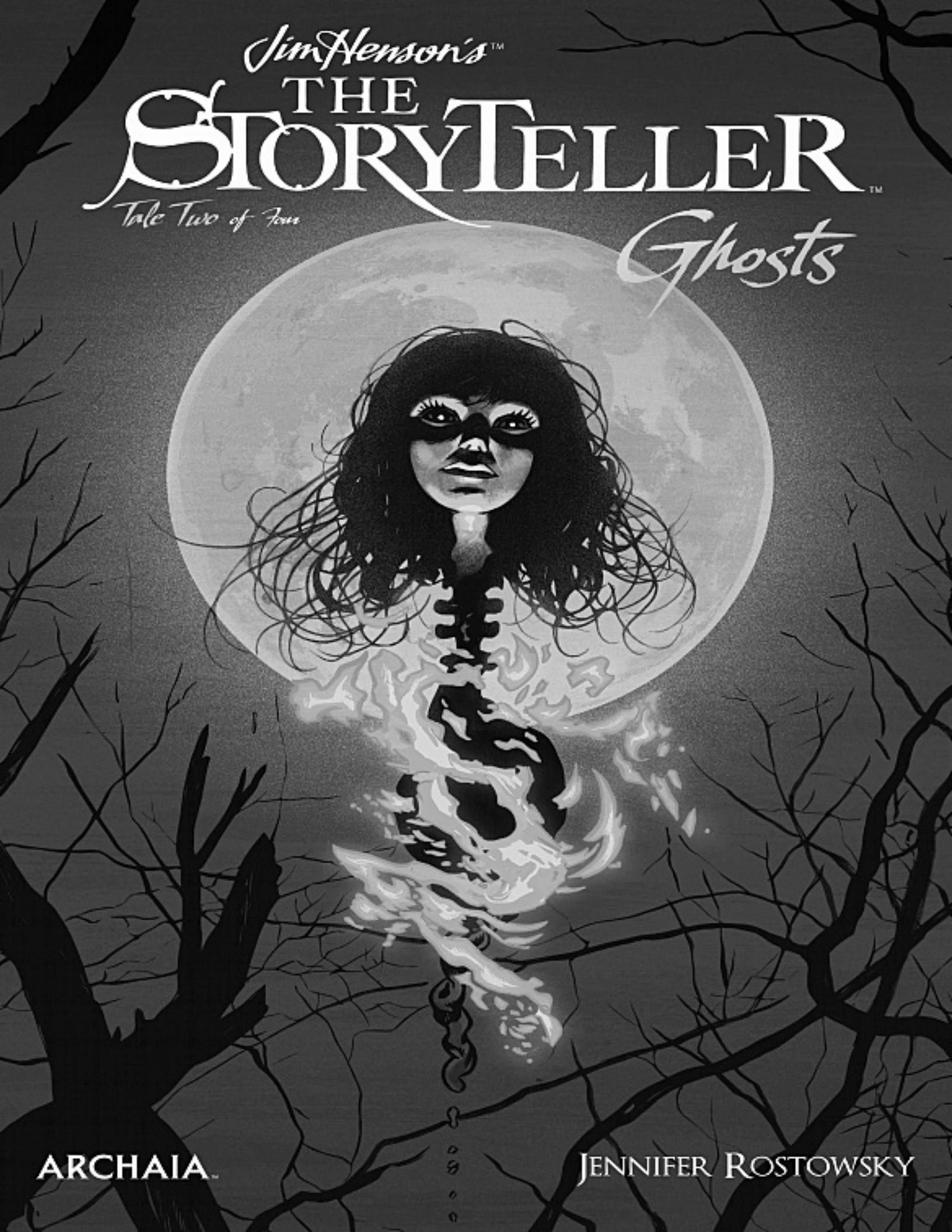
Jim Henson's™

THE STORYTELLER™

Tale Two of Four

Ghosts



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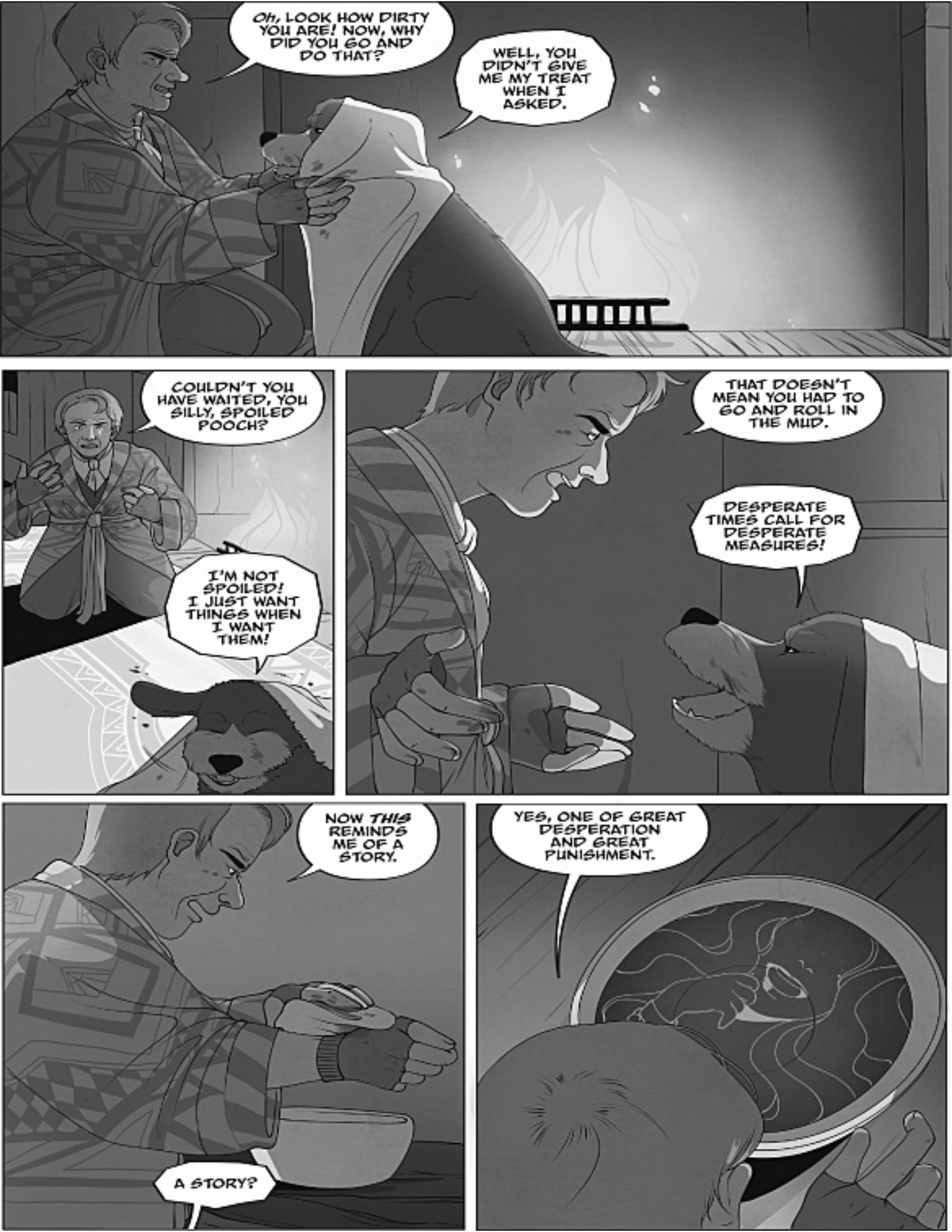
Oh, look how dirty you are! Now, why did you go and do that?
Well, you didn't give me my treat when I asked.
Couldn't you have waited, you silly, spoiled pooch?
I'm not spoiled! I just want things when I want them!
That doesn't mean you had to go and roll in the mud.
Desperate times call for desperate measures!
Now *this* reminds me of a story.
A story?
Yes, one of great desperation and great punishment.

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A FARAWAY LAND, THERE LIVED A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED MOLIKA. BEAUTIFUL, SPOILED, AND INCREDIBLY WEALTHY, SHE HAD EVERYTHING ANYONE COULD EVER WANT--
--AN ALLURING LOVER, A WARM HOME, DOTING PARENTS...
...AND MORE JEWELS THAN ONE COULD IMAGINE.
THEY ALL BELONGED TO HER.

BUT EVEN FOR THE RICH AND BEAUTIFUL, LIFE CAN BE CRUEL.
AND FOR MOLIKA, EVERYTHING WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE.

Shhhh, shhh, shh... STOP YOUR CRYING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HER!
AFTER ALL THAT TALK ABOUT LOVING ME FOREVER...
WHAT DOES THAT SERBY HAVE THAT I DON'T?
NOTHING, MISS.
THEN WHY WOULD NIMOL CHOOSE HER OVER ME? AM I NOT AS FAIR?
NOT AT ALL, MISS. YOU'RE QUITE FAIR.

THEN WHAT? WHAT COULD IT BE?
DID YOU DO SOMETHING?
NO! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG TO HER EVER.
MAYBE SHE JUST PREFERS THE TYPE OF LADY SEREY IS?
THAT CAN'T BE! I AM EXACTLY HER TYPE!
THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? HER EYES HAVE WANDERED TO SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOU.
I'LL FIND A WAY TO WIN HER BACK.

TO WIN BACK THE FAVOR OF HER LOVER, MOLIKA SHOWERED HER WITH ATTENTION AND GIFTS--
EXOTIC FRUITS...
...SHIMMERING PEARLS...
...POETRY...
...AND LOVE.

AND IT WAS ALL FOR NAUGHT.

♫SNIFFLE♫
♫SNIFFLE♫
WHY AM I EVEN TRYING ANYMORE?
Huh?
THAT IS, UNTIL SHE FOUND THE BOOK.

TSSSS
OW!
CURIOUS... THESE PAGES ARE WARM!
BURN... BLACK... RIBBON... LOVE...
IT'S A LOVE SPELL...
OH, GODS... THIS COULD BE IT. I COULD MAKE NIMOL FALL IN LOVE WITH ME AGAIN.

AND SO SHE BEGAN TO COLLECT THE ITEMS SHE NEEDED FOR THIS SPELL SHE HAD FOUND.
INCENSE.
MATCHES.
A FLAME.
BUT THERE WAS ONE THING SHE COULD NOT FIND.

"A BLACK RIBBON..." OF ALL THE THINGS I DON'T HAVE, I DON'T HAVE A BLACK RIBBON.
GODS, WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T LOSE HER!
MAYBE...

GREAT POWERS, PLEASE GRANT ME MERCY.
I KNOW I COME TO YOU SHORTHANDED, BUT FOR THIS POWER, I PROMISE YOU ALL THE GEMS YOU COULD EVER WISH FOR.

MOLIKA BEGAN CHANTING THE SPELL, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
AS SHE CHANTED, HER CONFIDENCE GREW. SHE COULD FEEL SOMETHING, A SENSATION, AS THE SPELL BEGAN TO TAKE HOLD.
BUT THEN...
AHHH! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

DO YOU THINK US GREEDY?
GEMS? WHAT COULD WE DO WITH GEMS?
AND YOU BEG OF US TO LEND OUR POWERS TO SUCH AN INSOLENT GIRL?
ONE SO VAIN SHE BELIEVES US SUSCEPTIBLE TO BRIBERY?
FOR WHAT? GEMS!
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN--!

FOR SUCH INSOLENCE AND BOLD ASSUMPTIONS, ONE MUST BE PUNISHED.
BUT I'M SORRY! I WAS DESPERATE, OTHERWISE I WOULD NEVER HAVE TRIED--!
PLEASE STOP... WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU STOP?
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, GIRL?
YOU MUST FACE YOUR PUNISHMENT!
HRRK!

AND SO, MOLIKA WAS CURSED TO BECOME ONE OF THE GHOSTS SHE HAD DISRESPECTED IN HER DESPERATION--
--SHE WAS CURSED TO BECOME AN AHP.

NO, NO, NO! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
PLEASE, YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!
BUT WE WILL...
PLEASE... YOU CAN'T...
SEREY... THIS IS HER FAULT...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, I WOULDN'T HAVE TRIED THAT STUPID SPELL!

CURSE THAT GIRL! CURSE HER!
AS SOON AS I FIND HER, I'LL PUNISH HER!
MO-- MOLIKA?
MY LOVE!
STAY AWAY, YOU'RE A MONSTER!
NO! MY DEAR! PLEASE DON'T RUN!
PLEASE! SEREY DID THIS! THIS IS HER FAULT!

AHH! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
SEREY... YOU'VE STOLEN MY LOVE AND YOU'VE TURNED HER AGAINST ME...
...TURNED ME INTO A MONSTER!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE!
I'LL DESTROY YOU LIKE YOU DESTROYED ME!
I-I'M SORRY!

...WHAT?
F-FOR ALL THE PAIN I'VE CAUSED YOU. WHATEVER IT IS, YOU HAVE MY SINCERE APOLOGY!
I...I DON'T...
...I'M SORRY... I'M SO, SO SORRY.
MOLIKA REALIZED THAT HER OWN JEALOUSY AND DESPERATION HAD CAUSED HER TO BECOME A MONSTROUS CREATURE.

SHE WAS CURSED TO SPEND THE REST OF HER DAYS HAUNTING THE NIGHT.
EVERYONE SHE ENCOUNTERED FLED FROM HER-- STRANGERS AND LOVED ONES ALIKE.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, THE WEALTHY, SPOILED, BEAUTIFUL GIRL HAD NOTHING.
ON THAT NOTE, MAYBE DESPERATE TIMES DON'T CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES.
BUT ABOUT THAT TREAT...
BECAUSE YOU ASKED SO NICELY... GIVE THIS OLD MAN A MINUTE TO REST HIS FEET AND I'LL GET YOU THAT TREAT, OLD FRIEND.
THE END.

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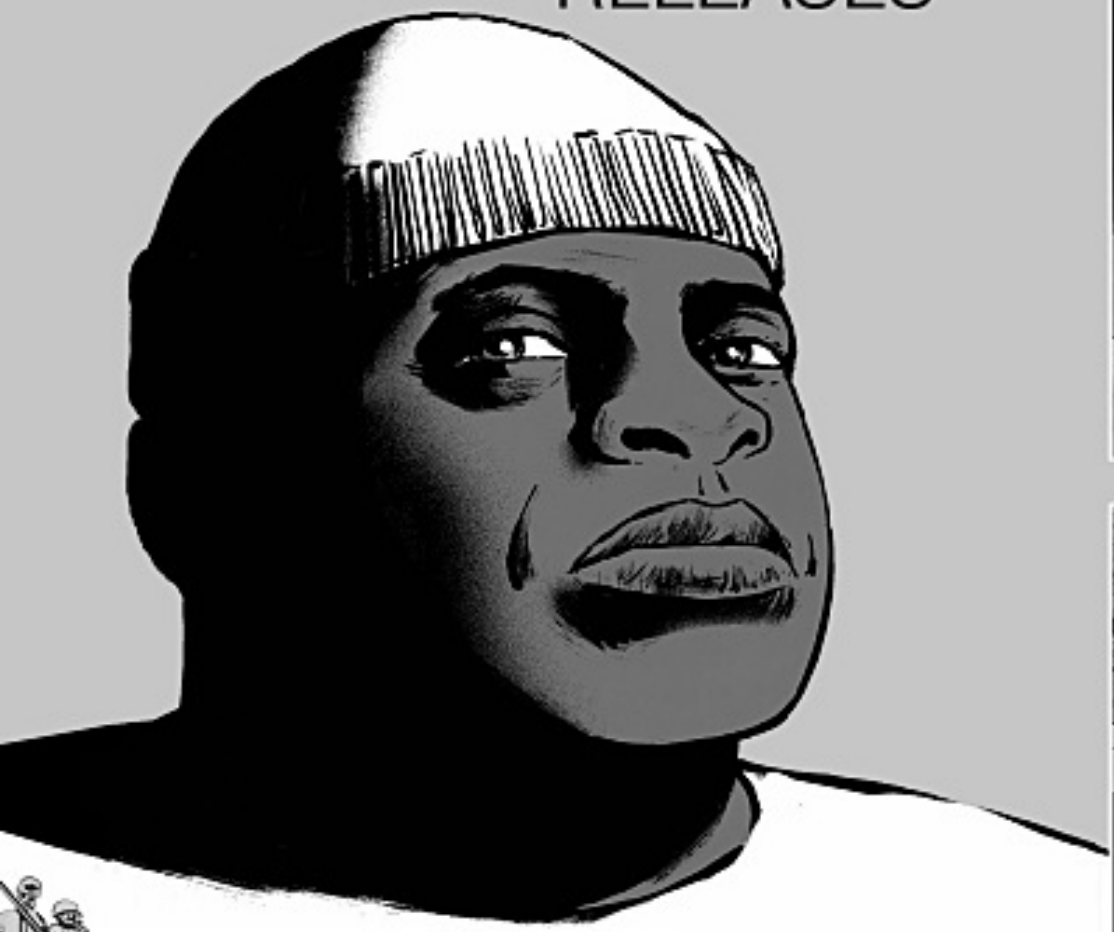

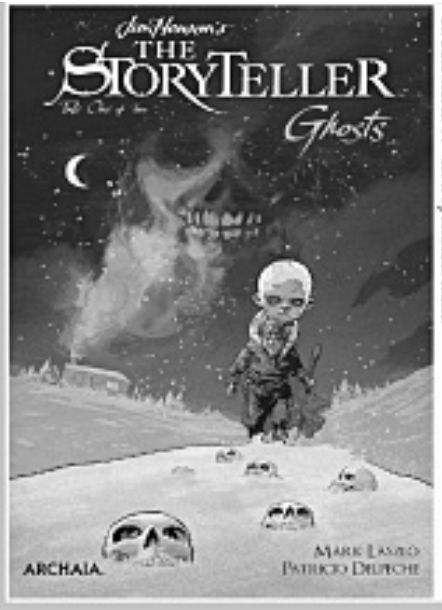

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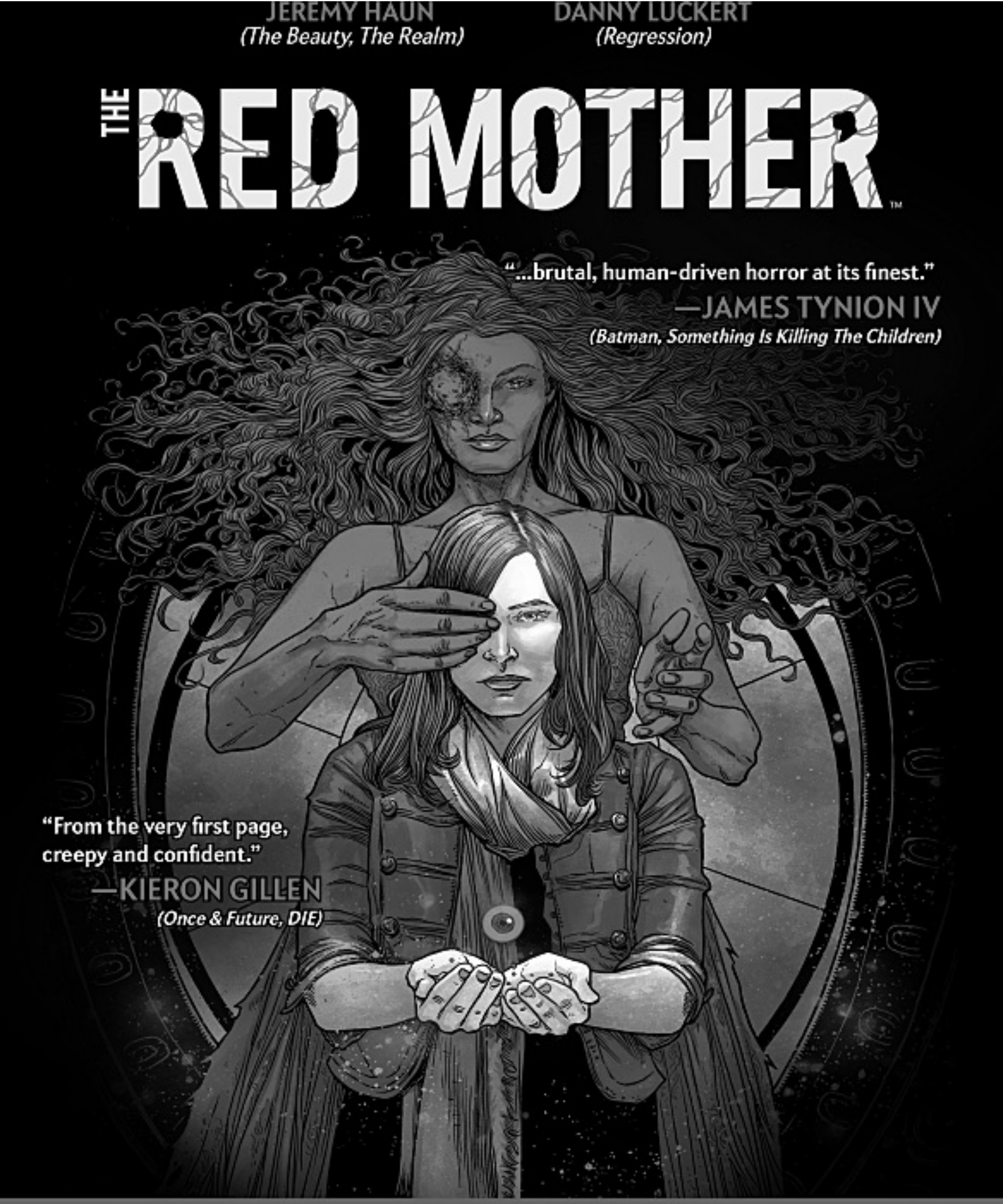

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